Meopham Community Academy

Enjoy, Learn, Aspire

Home Learning Policy

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Rationale

Home learning tasks and activities are given to pupils throughout their time at Meopham Community Academy and the Academy follows government guidelines in terms of the time allocation for home learning for each year group.

This Home Learning Agreement aims to ensure that:
1) Pupils are enabled to make maximum progress in their academic and social development.
2) There is a consistent approach to home learning throughout the school.
3) Parents are informed and involved.
4) Children and parents have clear expectations of home learning.
5) There is a progressive approach towards independence and individual responsibility.
6) Learning is extended to the home with a strong home-school partnership.
7) Pupils can access home learning at their differentiated level to meet their needs.

At Meopham Community Academy we provide all children with home learning to enable them to practise skills and learning they have already done in school. Sometimes the aim is to repeat something done in class as a practise exercise. On other times, the home learning will ask children to apply their learning to a new context. At all times, however, children will not be given work to do at home that they have not learned in school unless it is a project which asks them to find out about something new. For example, to do their own project about the Romans.

Aims

The purpose of home learning is to reinforce and consolidate learning that is covered in class. It also helps to develop a partnership between the Academy, parents and children. Parents become more familiar with the curriculum and the child benefits from their parents' attention, resources and support. Older children need to develop the confidence to study on their own, preparing them for secondary school.

The amount of home learning increases each year as follows:

- Year R – about 10 minutes per day
- Years 1 & 2 – about 1 hour per week
- Years 3 & 4 – about 1½ hours per week
- Years 5 & 6 – about 2½ hours per week

It should be noted that home learning can be set in many different forms with different expectations and outcomes which are explained. Home learning may not necessarily be formal written work; it may include simple research, preparation for a topic or event, or a practical activity, or preparation for a speech on a subject area.

Year R

Home learning in Year R consists of reading; each week the children have a reading scheme book and a sharing book (these books are changed once a week) plus handwriting. Additionally, a home learning challenge is provided each week within the home learning book. This challenge is optional and is linked to current learning. The challenge is open ended with guidance provided on how this could be completed. The home learning is set on Tapestry.

Years 1 and 2

Home learning tasks and activities equate to the equivalent of approximately 1 hour per week and include daily reading practice (either with a parent or independently) and spellings. It will also include a Mathematics learning challenge. These are set on Microsoft Teams.

Years 3 and 4

Home learning tasks and activities equate to the equivalent of approximately 1½ hours per week and should include 10-15 minutes of daily reading practice (either with a parent or independently), spellings and 40 minutes of Mathematics. Each term a topic is set which the pupils have the opportunity to share in class. These are set on Microsoft Teams.

Years 5 and 6

Home learning tasks and activities equate to the equivalent of approximately 2 ½ hours per week and should include 15 minutes of daily reading practice (either with a parent or independently), spellings and the equivalent of 1 ¼ hours of Mathematics. Each term a topic is set which the pupils have the opportunity to share in class.

Many of the aspects of year 5 and 6's home learning is in line with the home learning for years 2 to 4 but it requires much more depth of study. Children will receive home learning covering other areas of the curriculum and their work will begin to require more concentration and self-application. Reading should increase to include regular sustained periods so that children develop the habit of 'getting into a good book'.

Home learning will be in folders provided for the children or remotely using Microsoft Teams and teachers will ensure there is feedback to parents on the home learning their child has completed.

Home learning will be consistent across the 2 classes in each year group. The requirements of the home learning will be communicated to parents at the beginning of each academic year at the Meet the Teacher meeting. The PowerPoint for this will be available on the school website for parents to view.

If you have any concerns about the home learning set please firstly speak to your child's class teacher.

How you can help your child

- ✓ Encourage your child to take responsibility for bringing their home learning tasks home and later handing them in.
- ✓ Several short sessions can be more successful than one long one.
- ✓ Try to be creative and have fun with home learning tasks.
- ✓ Some activities can be done on a computer, rather than written by hand. This is particularly helpful for children who find handwriting difficult.
- ✓ Encourage your child to ask their teacher for help if they are not sure what to do.
- ✓ Taking an interest in the work they are doing in class and asking them questions about it.
- ✓ Making sure they have basic equipment: a pencil, ruler, rubber and sharpener should be all that is needed for most activities
- ✓ Letting us know if there has been any problems with the understanding of the homework.
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Monitoring

Home learning tasks and activities are set, collected and followed-up according to a routine set in each class (please refer to your child's year group page on the school website). Completed tasks will usually be reviewed with the children in class. Reading practice is monitored weekly through the child's reading record and 'Give me 5' reward system.

In Key Stage 1 a discussion between the class teacher and child will take place if they have not completed home learning in the first week; this is then followed with a discussion with the parent if this goes to a second consecutive week.

In Key Stage 2 children who have not completed or require additional help with home learning tasks may be offered support through discussion with the class teacher. Discussion will be held with children who have not done their home learning in the first week. If this goes to a second consecutive week the child will be asked to complete part of or all of the work at lunch break.